

**City of Asheville**  
**Fire Marshal's Office**  
**PROCEDURE TO OBTAIN A BLASTING PERMIT**

The City of Asheville requires a blasting permit be issued for all blasting operations conducted within the city's corporate limits. **The actual person conducting the blasting operation must sign the permit application. Blasting operations shall be conducted in strict accordance with all federal, state and local laws.** The following information must be submitted with each application prior to the requested start date of the permit unless otherwise approved by the Fire Marshal and the Risk Manager for the City of Asheville.

**Permit Applications, which typically take 5-10 business days to process, are available at the One Stop Development Center located at:**

Building Safety Department  
161 S. Charlotte St.  
P.O. Box 7148, Asheville, NC  
Phone: (828) 259-5846

**Permit Requirements:**

**Three (3) sets of documents must be submitted for approval prior to installation. An inspection shall be required before the permit is issued. The following is a list of requirements:**

1. Age, name, and employer of the blaster and any persons assisting the blaster.
2. Date and time of the blasting. **All blasting must be conducted during daylight hours.**
3. A blasting site plan is to be submitted. It must contain the following:
  - Location address
  - Site map
  - Direction and distance to all other buildings
  - Type of explosives to be used
  - Method of firing ( Electric or non electric)
  - Drilling report to include the number and location of planned shots
  - Location of Seismograph for each shot
  - Location of utilities (Underground and above ground)
  - Signature, printed name, title, date and time the site plan was prepared
4. If any buildings or structures fall within the scaled distance of the shot, a pre-blast survey is required.
5. The person securing a permit is required to provide the City of Asheville with a general liability insurance policy acceptable to the City of Asheville. **The City's Risk Manager may review the certificate before a permit will be issued.**

6. The proper permit fee must **accompany** each application.

**A site visit by a Deputy Fire Marshal will be conducted prior to permit issuance. No on site storage of explosives, other than those in a day box, is permitted. All unused explosives shall be removed from the site each day.**

**Within 5 business days following the expiration of the blasting permit, the permit shall be returned to the City of Asheville Fire Dept and a post blast survey report shall be attached to the permit detailing all operations conducted under that permit. Failure to comply will result in denial of future permit requests.**

1. Financial responsibility. Before a permit can be issued, the applicant shall file a corporate surety bond in the principal sum of \$2,000,000 or a public liability insurance policy for the same amount, for the purpose of the payment of all damages to persons or property which arise from, or are caused by, the conduct of any act authorized by the permit upon which any judicial judgment results. The City of Asheville shall be named on the certificate of insurance. The City of Asheville Risk Manager shall have the right to review the certificate before permit issuance, if requested.

2. Qualifications. Persons in charge of blasting operations shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs which impair sensory or motor skills, shall be at least 21 years of age, and shall demonstrate knowledge of all safety precautions related to the storage, handling or use of explosives, explosive materials or fireworks.

3. Supervision. The fire marshal is authorized to require operations to be supervised by Fire Department personnel at any time in order to determine compliance with all safety and fire regulations.

4. Seizure. The fire dept. is authorized to remove or cause to be removed or disposed of in an approved manner, at the expense of the owner, explosives, explosive materials or fireworks offered or exposed for sale, stored, possessed or used in violation of this chapter.

## **BLASTING OPERATIONS**

1. General. Blasting operations shall be conducted only by approved, competent operators familiar with the required safety precautions and the hazards involved and in accordance with the provisions of NFPA 495 and the NC Division of Labor.

2. Manufacturer's instructions. Blasting operations shall be performed in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the explosive materials being used.

3. Blasting in congested areas. When blasting is done in a congested area or in close proximity to a structure, railway, or highway, or any other installation, precautions shall be taken to minimize earth vibrations and air blast effects. Blasting mats or other protective means shall be used to prevent fragments from being thrown.

4. Restricted hours. Blasting operations shall only be conducted during daylight hours. Other blasting shall be performed during daylight hours unless otherwise approved by the code official.

5. Utility notification. Whenever blasting is being conducted in the vicinity of utility lines or rights-of-way, the blaster shall notify the appropriate representatives of the utilities at least 24 hours in advance of blasting, specifying the location and intended time of such blasting. Verbal notices shall be confirmed with written notice.

EXCEPTION: In an emergency situation, the time limit shall not apply when approved.

6. Electric detonator precautions. Precautions shall be taken to prevent accidental discharge of electric detonators from currents induced by radar and radio transmitters, lightning, adjacent power lines, dust and snow storms, or other sources of extraneous electricity.

7. Non-electric detonator precautions. Precautions shall be taken to prevent accidental initiation of non-electric detonators from stray currents induced by lightning or static electricity.

8. Blasting area security. During the time that holes are being loaded or are loaded with explosive materials, blasting agents or detonators, only authorized persons engaged in drilling and loading operations or otherwise authorized to enter the site shall be allowed at the blast site. The blast site shall be guarded or barricaded and posted. Blast site security shall be maintained until after the post-blast inspection has been completed.

9. Drill holes. Holes drilled for the loading of explosive charges shall be made and loaded in accordance with NFPA 495.

10. Removal of excess explosive materials. After loading for a blast is completed and before firing, excess explosive materials shall be removed from the area and returned to the proper storage facilities.

11. Initiation means. The initiation of blasts shall be by means conforming to the provisions of NFPA 495.

12. Connections. The blaster shall supervise the connecting of the blastholes and the connection of the loadline to the power source or initiation point. Connections shall be made progressively from the blasthole back to the initiation point. Blasting lead lines shall remain shunted (shorted) and shall not

be connected to the blasting machine or other source of current until the blast is to be fired.

13. Firing control. No blast shall be fired until the blaster has made certain that all surplus explosive materials are in a safe place in accordance with item 10, all persons and equipment are at a safe distance or under sufficient cover, and that an adequate warning signal has been given.

14. Post-blast procedures. After the blast, the following procedures shall be observed.

1. No person shall return to the blast area until allowed to do so by the blaster in charge.
2. The blaster shall allow sufficient time for smoke and fumes to dissipate and for dust to settle before returning to or approaching the blast area.
3. The blaster shall inspect the entire blast site for misfires before allowing other personnel to return to the blast area.

15. Misfires. Where a misfire is suspected, all initiating circuits shall be traced and a search made for unexploded charges. Where a misfire is found, the blaster shall provide proper safeguards for excluding all personnel from the blast area. Misfires shall be reported to the blasting supervisor immediately. Misfires shall be handled under the direction of the person in charge of the blasting operation in accordance with NFPA 495.

**Please call (828) 259-5441  
at least 48 hours in advance to request your site inspection.**